eSMART/CYBERBULLYING/CYBERSAFETY POLICY

1.   RATIONALE:

Every school has a statutory obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment free of bullying and harassment in all its forms, including cybersafety issues.

We place a high priority on providing students with Internet facilities and ICT devices / equipment which will benefit learning outcomes. However, we recognise that the presence of these technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, and even illegal, material and activities.

We acknowledge the need to have in place rigorous and effective school-wide cybersafety practices which are directed and guided by this policy.

We want our students to be confident and safe users of technologies by providing them with the tools and skills needed to be responsible cyber citizens. Through a partnership between parents, teachers and students, we believe it is important to explicitly teach cyber safety skills on an ongoing basis to provide students with the best educational opportunities to ensure they make safe choices when at school or outside our direct supervision.

2. AIMS:

2.1   To establish clear expectations with regards to cyber-safety.
2.2   To reinforce within the school community that no form of bullying, cyberbullying or inappropriate use of technology is acceptable at any time.
2.3   Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying (in all its forms), cyberbullying or inappropriate use of technology and to have a responsibility to report it to staff, whether as observer or victim.
2.4   To ensure that all reported incidents of cyberbullying or inappropriate use of technology are followed up and that support is given to both victim and perpetrator.
2.5   To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

3. IMPLEMENTATION:

Primary Prevention:

3.1   No individual may use the school Internet facilities unless the Internet Acceptable Use Agreement has been signed, (by both the child and parent/guardian), and returned to the school.

3.2   The Internet Acceptable Use Agreement is also designed as an educative tool and should be used as a resource for all users.

3.3   Signed Internet Acceptable Use Agreement will be filed in a secure place, and an appropriate system devised which facilitates confirmation that particular individuals are authorised to make use of the Internet and ICT devices/equipment.

Intervention:

3.4 The safety of children is of paramount concern. Any apparent breach of cybersafety will be taken seriously. The response to individual incidents will follow the procedures developed as part of the school's cybersafety practices.

3.5 The school has the right to monitor, access and review all digital activity on our computer network. This includes personal emails sent and received on the schools computer/s and/or network facilities at all times.

3.6 Those identified as victims or perpetrators will be counselled as required.

3.7 Parents will be encouraged to contact school if they become aware of a problem

3.8 Bullies, victims and witnesses will be counselled, and incidents investigated and documented.

3.9 If bullying is ongoing, the perpetrator's parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures document and Department of Education & Training guidelines.

3.10 Ongoing monitoring of identified bullies.

Post Violation:

3.11 Consequences may involve: withdrawal of privileges, exclusion from classroom and /or playground, suspension, counselling and support (with or without parents) for both victims and bullies.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

Definitions:

Cyberbullying is when a **child** is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or targeted by another child using the Internet, mobile phone , instant messaging, e-mail, chat rooms or social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter or other type of digital technology.
Cyber-safety refers to the safe use of the internet and ICT equipment/devices including mobile phones.
ICT Equipment/devices in this document includes, but is not limited to, computers, laptops, storage devices, cameras, all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers, social networking sites, and any other technologies as they come into use.